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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AIRGRAM

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A-745 NO. CONFIDENTIAL HANDLING INDICATOR

RECEIVED DEPARTMENT OF STATE JUL 3 12 04 PM 1967 Airgram Section Telegram Unit ANALYSIS BRANCH

TO : Department of State

INFO: DA NANG
CINCPAC

FROM : Amembassy SAIGON

DATE: June 26, 1967

SUBJECT : Truong dinh DZU and Tran van CHIEU Form Ticket for Vietnamese Presidential Elections

REF : STATE 203492
SAIGON A-784

Action Symbol
Name of Officer

EXCISE

According to the Saigon Daily News of June 1, Lawyer Truong dinh DZU gave the News a letter on May 31 announcing his presidential candidacy with businessman Tran van CHIEU as his running mate. Dzu said he and Chieu were nominated by the United Nationalist Front (Mat Tran Quoc Dan Thong Nhat). They filed officially June 24th.

As requested in referenced telegram we have sent as an enclosure to referenced airgram a limited official use biographical sketch on Dzu and Chieu for deep background use with the press. In addition we have these further confidential comments:

The United Nationalist Front is an amalgam of several small political parties and other organizations (see Saigon's A-356 of January 12, 1967) established in early 1966. At present it appears to consist only of some members of the executive committees of each of the 20-odd organizations, most of them non-viable, which belong to it. [illegible] of the Anti-Communist Nationalist Bloc and the Vietnamese Restoration Association (both member organizations of the NUF; neither of any present significance), has told an Embassy officer that his groups would support Phan khac Suu regardless of the official NUF position. On the other hand, Tan (New) Dai Viet Party leader Nguyen ngoc HUY has said his party would back Dzu and Chieu because Viet-Nam needs leaders who are reasonably young and dynamic, experienced, and able to work closely with the Americans.

Group 3
Downgraded at 12-year intervals,
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Contents and Classification Approved by:
POL:JACalhoun
TJCheavner

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Dan Tzulberg DATE
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

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Casting a long shadow over Dzu's candidacy are charges made in March 1967 by the Government Delegate to the Special Military Court that he extorted bribes from Americans who were imprisoned and charged with various economic crimes. Dzu denied the charges, claiming that he had merely charged high fees which were never paid. The Government announced an investigation, the results of which have not yet been publicly reported.

The same reports indicate the discovery that Dzu has a direct violation of Vietnamese law. It is also reported that the Bar Association is reviewing Dzu's activities and considering disbarring him.

In the light of the charges against Dzu, some Vietnamese have suggested that he is running for President in order to clear himself

Comment: The weakness and divisions of the Nationalist United Front, and the difficulties arising out of the extortion charges against Dzu, make it unlikely that the Dzu-Chieu ticket will pick up many votes, especially in rural areas where they are virtually unknown.

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